



# Removing Restrictions on Voluntary Metric-Only Labeling

From the Perspective of the Art and Creative Materials Industry





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The Art and Creative Materials Institute, Inc.

#### What is The Art and Creative Materials Institute, Inc. (ACMI)

- An international non-profit trade association of more than 200 art and craft materials manufacturers
- An organization that evaluates and certifies that art and creative materials are non-toxic or properly labeled in accordance with Federal and state art material labeling laws



#### What is ACMI's Mission?

- To be recognized as the leading privatesector authority on the safe use of art and creative materials
- To be the premier provider of a certification program for the toxicological evaluation and labeling of art and creative materials

### What are ACMI's purposes to accomplish its mission?

- To certify the appropriate toxicological evaluation and labeling of art and creative materials and promote their safe use
- To understand and represent the certification and regulatory needs of its diverse members while cooperating for the greater good

# How does ACMI implement its second purpose?

- Monitor potential regulatory issues concerning the industry at the international, national, and state levels and take appropriate action on behalf of the membership
- Develop a working relationship with international counterparts to influence and create more consistent labeling standards for all countries

# Why is ACMI concerned about metric-only labeling?

- Our members and other contacts in the European Union inform us that the EU has passed a Directive requiring metric units of measure only on products produced and/or sold in EU member countries and have extended the effective date for the last time to 2010.
- Currently in the U.S., products regulated by the Federal Fair Packaging and Labeling Act (FPLA) are required to show both metric and standard units of measure.



- Products not covered by FPLA are covered by state regulations, half of which permit (but do not require) metric units only and half of which do not allow metric units only.
- Most of the ACMI-member manufacturers are companies that are too small or have product lines that are too small to support multiple packaging and inventories for various countries where they market their products.



 If the current EU Directive and laws in the U.S. stand, manufacturers without multiple packaging in the EU will not be able to sell certain products in the U.S. with metric units only and U.S. manufacturers without multiple packaging will not be able to sell products with both metric and standard units of measure in the EU.

# What do ACMI and its member companies recommend?

- That a coalition of interested organizations representing member companies with similar issues be formed.
- That this coalition work to revise U.S. laws to allow the use of metric only units of measure on products sold in the U.S.

## Why does ACMI believe this issue is important?

- Smaller manufacturers will be able to sell products in the U.S. as well as the E.U.
- All manufacturers will have a choice on whether to use metric only labeling in each market or produce multiple packaging.



 Manufacturers in the art and creative materials industry will be able to have more room on labels of very small products for other very important information, including safe use information.